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The Redeemer College
Alumni Newsletter

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4.

APRIL / 1989

Liberal Arts:

TOMORROW'S EDUCATION TODAY

What can Redeemer College graduates do once they have earned their liberal arts, Bachelor of Christian Studies degrees? According to recent articles on education and job opportunities, there are jobs waiting for the people with the right stuff. So, what's the right stuff? The answer echoes within the walls of Canada's employment centres: 'Give us graduates with less specialization and more people skills. Give us people who can think.'

by Daina Doucet

Redeemer College is a young university that offers a liberal arts program of study from a Christian perspective – something that is much more popular in the United States, and not yet the norm among Canadian universities. As a result, a notion continues to exist with some that a bachelor degree from

Redeemer College really 'isn't up to scratch', or 'isn't accepted out there', or 'isn't really a degree'. The idea also arises that a 'Christian' university is somehow biased or sheltering, and therefore inferior to its secular counterparts.

But what are the facts? Some would say, "Don't bother us with the facts. We will believe what we want to believe". Yet statistics show that Redeemer College graduates with their liberal arts, Bachelor of Christian Studies degrees are succeeding and are being recognized.

FACT 1: Liberal Arts: the trend for the '90's

According to a January article in *The Hamilton Spectator*, competition for younger workers is increasing. This can be frustrating for both job hunters and employers. The writer quotes Ken Johnson, manager of the Canada Employment Centre at McMaster University: "As well as

technical skills, a good liberal arts background is also important for students wanting to get ahead. Some of the corporations are even looking at people with liberal arts degrees as management. They seem to really have a greater awareness of the need for communication and people skills."

"When there is an apparent conflict between Christianity and science, we can discuss it openly."

Jacquie Kodde

The remarks of author and Liberal Arts and educator, Dr. James Livingston concur. "The liberally educated person has the most saleable of skills demonstrated by the fact that he or she is a person of critical imagination and flexibility, and a person who has learned how to learn."

With rapid advances in technology and changes in society, a demand has been created for university graduates who can adapt quickly to a changing world. Only a liberal arts program which offers a broad, comprehensive education

can fill this need. It allows for exploration in many disciplines while preparing students for their areas of specialization.

FACT 2: Liberal Arts: A 'new' concept

The November 19, 1988 issue of *University Affairs* discusses how Canadian universities can return to a liberal arts curriculum. The problem, as the author sees it, is a compelling pressure to specialize. Among Canadian universities, he says, there is an "obsession with technical, professional and specialized training at the expense of a general or liberal education". What is needed, he explains, is a new, liberal education that "must involve some concept of breadth, and understanding of the human experience, a sense of wholeness and – in an age when science and technology increasingly influence our lives – basic exposure to what science is all about".

In the meantime, as Canada's university officials deliberate how to redirect the albatross of higher education, the fledgling Redeemer College, with the Lord's help, is already seven years ahead. It opened its doors in 1982 to a liberal arts program before Canada's education giants began discussing its value. *continued next page*

Bookstore to be Sold

During the past few months, College Administrators have been studying the possibility of selling the Bookstore. This option was explored because of the financial costs incurred by having such an enterprise run by the College.

According to Vice-President Kranendonk, the store could be more viable for an independent owner who may advertise off campus. Presently, the College is not permitted to advertise publicly because of its non-profit status. This severely limits sales to the general public.

Although there have been several concerns raised by students and faculty, having an independent owner would guarantee longer operating hours, more efficient service and better selection. Students have been promised that any buyer would carry the same markup on textbooks as is presently carried.

Negotiations were recently completed and the new owner will take over operations on May 1, 1989.

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is the newsletter of the Redeemer College Alumni Association. It is designed to be a source of information for all former students and graduates of Redeemer College.

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Address all correspondence or address changes to the editor.

FACT 3: Christian and Liberal Arts

In addition to Redeemer College, there are currently two other Christian universities in Canada which are full members of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Trinity Western, British Columbia, and The King's, Alberta. These Christian universities are not Bible Colleges. They fill the gap between Bible Colleges and secular universities. They offer the same curriculum as secular universities, but they present it from a Christian perspective. This perspective is particularly compatible with liberal arts. College's Vice-President (Academic), Dr. Justin Cooper, explains that Christians believe God created the world and the universe in all its diversity. He quotes Colossians 1: 16-17, '...all things were created through Him and for Him...and in Him all things hold together.' "The objective of a Christian liberal arts program, then," he says, "is to study this creation in all its diversity."

Although this goal is also shared by secular liberal arts institutions, Christian liberal arts universities differ however, in that they also provide a framework, or perspective from which to understand and integrate that diversity. "That," says Dr. Cooper, "is the genius of a Christian liberal arts curriculum. It integrates the diversity."

Third-year Redeemer science student, Jacquie Kodde comments, "When I first came, I decided to take a number of courses because I wanted to get more into focus. Here I am studying science in the context of God's creation, which is something I wouldn't get at a secular university. I like the fact that they don't force one particular viewpoint on us. We get a wide perspective, and when there is an apparent conflict between Christianity and science, we can discuss it openly. It's not just a prepackaged 'Christian perspective'."

FACT 4: Liberal Arts grads do well

Granted, the proposed change in the name of the degree from Bachelor of Christian Studies to Bachelor of Arts, Science or Education, will yield a greater psychological impact in the marketplace. But the fact is that among Redeemer College graduates, there are currently none whose liberal arts, Bachelor of Christian Studies degrees have left them without an occupation, or without employment.

"The challenge, is to create the type of liberal arts curriculum that would entice and attract students..."

Michael Skolnick

Ahead of its time

Employers are realizing the benefit of a broad, general education that gives an individual flexibility, and breadth of understanding, but all are not yet aware that such individuals are the product of liberal arts universities. As this knowledge is assimilated by society, graduates of such institutions as Redeemer College will increasingly find themselves in optimal positions for employment.

Michael Skolnick, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education believes that university educators will have no choice but to "roll up their sleeves and get down into the trenches of academe as they grapple with what should constitute a new liberal arts curriculum at the end of the 20th century" (University Affairs, Nov. 1988). "The challenge", he says, "is to create the type of liberal arts curriculum that would entice and attract students and make them feel like there was something that was worth putting their time and effort into."

Redeemer College has accepted the challenge.

The Editor's Workbench

Greetings.

Well, here we are again, another academic year almost done. I'm sure you can remember how things are on campus at this time of year. Students, faculty and staff are all extremely busy. As far as the Alumni Association is concerned, things are also busy.

In May, 39 graduands will become Alumni. As a Board, we've met several times to discuss what we can do to raise awareness among students about what our Association is all about. In March each graduand received a package which included our "gift" brochure, a survey, membership card, etc. During graduation, Gerard Kuntz '86 will speak briefly to the class on our behalf.

It is our hope that if we have informed graduands, they will be all the more interested in what we do and will be much more interested in staying in touch.

* * * *

The Class of 1989

Susan Bernhard	Gerdy Prinzen
Denise Bezuyen	Lloyd Rang
Timothy Bleeker	Norm Sennema
Tina Boks	Grace Sikma
Theresa Bootsma	Glenn Stelpstra
Leticia Chan	Ross Taylor
Emilyn DeBoer	Sharon Timmerman
Jacqueline DeJong	Carol VanAnkum
Cindy Dykstra	Alisha VanBelle
Ruth Ann Dykstra	Sue VanderSpek
Valerie Dykstra	Kasey VanderVeen
Vicky Dykstra	Adrian Voortman
Willard Dykstra	Kathy Vriend
Mike Fallon	
Eric Hagt	
Walt Hartholt	
Lucinda Henneveld	
Doug Hoogsteen	
Jim Huinink	
Susan Kiers	
Dick Kievit	
Paul Koomans	
Bill Kroesbergen	
Tracey Luth	
Wilma Luth	
Mark Mantel	

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Attention

Class 1986 and 1987

Last year, the Class of 1988 had a composite photo made of all graduates as their gift to the College. Faculty and Administrative Staff were very pleased with this gift and I was asked to investigate the possibility of getting composites made for the first two classes.

What I need to know is - Are you willing to underwrite the cost (\$300/yr.) of having this done? Are you interested in purchasing one at a cost of approximately \$15? Please write and let me know your feelings on this matter.

A decision will be made this summer as to whether we will order the composites or not. Please drop me a line and tell me how you feel.

Willard

Faculty Update

David Benner, Professor of Psychology was invited to NorthWestern College as the Ronald R. Nelson Scholar in Residence; giving four lectures at the campus between February 13 and February 15th. Lectures focused on the relationship of Psychology to the Christian faith with particular topics including the dynamics of self-control, and the role of the heart in psychology and Christian thought.

Ted Plantinga attended the Vrieze Philosophy Conference at Trinity Christian College in Palos

Heights, Illinois. He presented a paper entitled, "Philosophy's Place in Reformed Undergraduate Curriculum" and represented Redeemer College in a panel discussion in which approaches to philosophy at various Christian colleges were discussed.

John Stronks, the Elementary Education Coordinator of the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS), has been appointed Assistant Professor of Education at Redeemer College effective August, 1990.

His appointment represents the filling of the second teaching position in the Department of

Education. Creation of the position is a result of the College's effort to bring a full teacher's education program to Ontario. This would give Redeemer College Education students the opportunity to complete their teaching certificate at Redeemer College, rather than at Calvin or another university.

Al Wolters will be a guest speaker at the Lily Grant Faculty Seminar held at Calvin College. He will speak on the topic "Some basic motifs of a Christian Worldview. The conference is scheduled for May 30th.

WE WIN!!

Royals claim Men's Hockey Title

For the second time in our seven years, the Redeemer College Royals own the Niagara Christian Hockey League championship.

On Tuesday, March 28th the Royals skated to their final win in a three-game sweep of second place Burlington, in the championship series. It was the second three-game sweep for the men in these playoffs.

Semi-final action saw Redeemer College take on Fourth-place Waterford - a newly formed team for 1988/89.

The Royals enjoyed perhaps their best season ever, finishing first in the League with 20 wins - 3 losses. Four Royals ranked in the top seven scorers this season. Redeemer's Steve DeBoer and Henry Lammers were the leading scorers for the League tallying 58 and 55 points respectively. Goaltender Carl Miedema played superbly all season and had the lowest goals-against average of all teams with 1.78. The team posted the third highest number of penalty minutes.

Coach Randy Haveman and Assistant Curtis Q. Tuininga worked to make the team a force both offensively and defensively. They are to be congratulated for their fine work.

A stand-up reception in honour of the team was held on Friday, April 7th.

The Personal Touch

Tamara Plugers (Boer) x83 and her husband Ken, wrote to ask everyone to remember their twin sons in prayer. Nathan and Jordan are having a tough time fighting their disease. If you would like to write them, their address is Box 164, Jordan Station, ON L0R 1S0.

Henrietta Heeg (VanderMolen) x83 tells us that she and husband Stuart have two "cute" girls: Rachel and Tara. The family lives on a dairy farm near Hagersville, Ontario.

Diana Schenk (Pool) x84 and husband William would like to announce the birth of a son Michael Edward - a new brother for Jonathan.

Tony Zekveld x84 married ArleyAnn Noorloos in August,

1987. Presently, he is studying at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS, where he is working toward his Masters in Missions.

Keith Lewis 86 is now a Minister In Training at the United Theological College in Kingston, Jamaica. Keith hopes to graduate in 1991.

Paul Veldhuis 86 is currently teaching grades 6 and 7 at the Orillia Christian School. Paul will marry Irene Slofstra on July 8th. His address is R.R. #2 Orillia, ON L3V 6H2.

Elizabeth Schinkel 87 plans to be married July 29th to Dimitrios Papadopoulos. Both plan to teach high school on a Cree Indian Reservation in Misstassini, Quebec.

News of Interest

Name: _____

Class year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

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